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PATENT

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March 23, 2004  
Dick Wolfe 3-23-04  
SIGNATURE DATE

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Bryan W. Shirk et al.  
Serial No. : 09/817,672  
Filing Date : March 26, 2001  
For : BIODEGRADABLE VEHICLE  
COMPONENTS  
Group Art Unit : 3611  
Examiner : Lee S. Lum  
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(VSSIM)4686-1  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1400

Commissioner for Patents  
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**RESPONSE** **GROUP 3600**

Sir:

This letter responds to the Office Action dated December 23, 2003.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present

Remarks/Argument is respectfully requested.

**Remarks/Argument**

The Applicants respectfully disagree that the claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. The Examiner argues that it is chemically illogical to have "a fiber consisting essentially of a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin" because this suggests a composition such as cotton "consisting mainly of polyhydroxyalkanoate resin" which is frankly nonsensical.

The claim language "a fiber consisting essentially of a polyhydroxyalkanoate resin" is not nonsensical. A fiber as defined in Hawley's Condensed Chemical